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THE MYSTERY OF TOMORROWLAND
metroLIFE

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Bonnycastle School Grade 1 students Alex Bockarie, left, and Kobeen Forte add their handmade tiles to a mosaic in the shape of the UN logo at Investors Group Field Thursday. Their pieces are among 15,000 tiles created by Pembina Trails School Division students on the theme of human rights. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

No kids in hotels

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Minister says agencies must comply or risk takeover

Manitoba's family services minister says child-welfare agencies must follow a ban on housing foster children in hotels or risk being taken over by the province.

Kerri Irvin-Ross says the government has issued a directive to agencies that orders them to avoid the practice at all costs after June 1.

She told a legislature committee earlier this week that agencies could "choose not to follow that standard." But on Thursday she told The Canadian Press there will be consequences for those who don't comply.

The province will keep a close eye on hotel use by agencies and will take over if hotels are used too frequently, she said.

"We are working day and night with the authorities and agencies to ensure that we have the resources that are available."

Manitoba has about 10,000 children in care. The vast majority are aboriginal. A chronic shortage of foster-care spaces has forced the province to use hotels to house children — something that has been criticized for more than a decade.

The government is creating new emergency foster-home spots and reducing its reliance on outside contract workers over two years. It is also focusing more on preventative efforts that support families before children are taken into care, Irvin-Ross said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

Ireland votes on gay marriage. World

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Blinded by hair dye, dog due for surgery

Percy the dog, who in February was deliberately blinded by hair dye applied by his owner's child, is about to head for surgery in hopes of saving some of his sight.

Percy was surrendered to Manitoba Underdogs Rescue on Feb. 9 in extreme pain, said the group's executive director, Jessica Hansen.

Veterinary care has made him comfortable, but a diagnosis of Corneal Endothelial Dystrophy means he needs specialized surgery to save some of his sight and prevent further pain.

"Percy was originally scheduled to go to the University of Saskatoon for eye surgery this week, but we've had to reschedule," said Hansen in a news release. "Because of everything he's been through, he's having a few issues adjusting to his new challenges."

> **Because of everything he's been through, he's having a few issues adjusting to his new challenges**
> Jessica Hansen, in a news release

Hansen said Percy isn't in any pain at this point, and donors have stepped forward to help pay for his surgery, although his medication is ongoing for pain relief.

Follow Percy's progress on his Facebook group, PercyWonderdog. METRO

Percy was blinded by hair dye in February of this year. FACEBOOK

Dottie was stabbed after a homicide in Archwood. A Go Fund Me page has been set up to raise money for bills. COURTESY GOFUNDME

Fundraiser set up to help with dog's bills

CRIME

Recovery costs soaring for Dottie stabbed in homicide

Winnipeggers have set up a Go Fund Me page to help the second victim in a homicide in Archwood over the weekend.

Police found Dorothy Dykens, 89, dead at her home on Tremblay Street early Sunday after being called to the area by a woman, who was ultimately charged in the homicide.

When they arrived, officers found the caller "in an intoxicated state" and a dog that had been stabbed. The woman was taken into custody and the dog was taken to a veterinary hospital.

The dog, named Dottie, is in serious but stable condition and is expected to recover. However, the bills for her care have reached $2,500 and are expected to climb.

Dottie belonged to the landlord of the home, Nina Kaczmarek, and her daughter, Barbara Carr Davis, started the fund.

"Dottie is almost 16 and is a treasured family pet. She is a chihuahua-terrier mix and so she is not very big. But she is big in spirit and friendliness and adventure," reads a post on the page.

"The vet bills are ... expected to grow more before Dottie can come home. In that time, my Mother is dealing with police, insurance, victim services, the veterinary hospital, reporters, social assistance, family, friends, real estate, and neighbors. All of this to make her home livable again for her and her pets and when Dottie finally comes home."

Melissa Joyce Gabriel, 35, of Winnipeg has been charged with manslaughter, killing or injuring other animals and two counts of failing to comply with a probation order. METRO

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Transit union blasts city bargaining view

LABOUR

ATU president says recent statement was too one-sided

Dave Baxter
Metro | Winnipeg

The president of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) says a "one-sided" statement put out by the city on Wednesday paints transit workers in a bad light, and now they are worried about repercussions against bus drivers.

"We are beyond disappointed to say the least," said Manitoba ATU president John Callahan. "And we are concerned about how this one-sided statement affects the image of our bus operators, so we are even concerned about the possibility for assault."

Callahan said the Union is hopeful for productive meetings moving forward, and are hoping to get a deal done soon.

The city said in the statement they believe they have proposed a fair offer.

The statement also said there is still no agreement between the city and ATU, but they were set to continue discussions through a provincially appointed conciliation on Friday.

"My understanding is that they are still working hard to reach a deal, and we are hopeful they will be able to reach a deal soon," said Mayor Brian Bowman Wednesday.

In its offer to the union, the city proposed a four-year agreement that includes improvements to wages and benefits.

Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman speaks at city hall on Wednesday about the ongoing labour dispute between the city and the Amalgamated Transit Union. DAVE BAXTER/METRO

That proposal includes an eight per cent wage increase for bus operators, and an 8.81 per cent wage increase for mechanics, over four years.

The union has proposed a three-year agreement, with wage increases of 10.34 per cent for operators, and 20.24 per cent for mechanics, over three years.

When Bowman was asked if the numbers in both the city's and the unions proposals could affect negotiations with other labour groups is the future, he said every negotiation is different, but stopped short of elaborating.

"Each circumstance is unique, so I also just want to (be cautious) about my words right now while negations are ongoing."

Transit riders should expect late or cancelled bus service on a number of routes in the coming weeks, and are being told they may be forced to make other travel plans in some cases.

1,100

Winnipeg Transit now employs about 1,100 bus operators, as well as 250 maintenance staff.

CARDIAC CARE

Pediatric program won't be revived

The lack of a pediatric cardiac surgery program in Manitoba means babies with serious heart conditions who need special care have to travel to places such as Edmonton for treatment — and it's likely to stay that way.

The province used to have a program but it was shut down in the late 1990s following the deaths of 12 babies and a $2.4-million inquest that found several of the children's deaths were preventable.

Manitoba Health says there aren't enough children with serious problems to bring the program back.

Dr. Reeni Soni, head of pediatric cardiology at Children's Hospital, said right now about 150 children a year in the province need heart surgery.

She says for the province to have its own program, that number would have to be closer to 250 or 300.

But the families of sick babies say they'd rather their children be able to get treatment closer to home.

One-year-old Oliver Hilder Titarniuk has a number of conditions, including two holes in his heart that needed specialized treatment in Edmonton.

"He's been stronger than me and Samantha have been," said Oliver's father, Steven Titarniuk.

Oliver's parents had to drop everything, including Titarniuk's job, to go to Edmonton and stay in a hotel while the little boy was being treated.

"We had less than 24 hours' notice," said Samantha Hilder, the boy's mother. "We had to leave and we were gone for two full months with kind of no expectation of when we would be coming back.

"Right now we're waiting for him to get strong and big, they'll then fix his heart."

Manitoba Health did pay for travel, hotels and even meals for both parents to be with Oliver.

Soni said the right place for children such as Oliver is in Edmonton.

"I think the general sense across the entire country is that to get the best long-term, consistent results, it's better to centralize those kinds of operations to a few places across the country so those centres are doing lots and lots of cases to maintain their skill," she said.

CTV WINNIPEG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manitoba Health says there are not enough children with health problems to bring back the cardiac program. THINKSTOCK

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BALLET LA BAYADERE TAKES OVER MTC Royal Winnipeg Ballet Professional Division dancers Yue Shi and Victoria Jenkins performed La Bayadere: Kingdom of the Shades for a select audience at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre on Thursday. RWB's La Bayadere: Kingdom of the Shades and The Misadventures of Pinocchio is running May 21-23 at MTC. DAVE BAXTER/METRO

IN BRIEF

Public insurance service centres offer up park passes
Those looking to get provincial park passes in Manitoba can now get them by going to Manitoba Public Insurance service centres.

For the second year in a row, MPI is making provincial park passes available at all of their Manitoba locations.

"We know how popular this initiative was last year, and we're happy to be able to provide the service once again," said MPI spokesperson Ward Keith.

The passes are valid until the end of April of 2016, cost $40, and will be available for sale on Thursday at MPI locations. METRO

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Boxing and human rights fit like a glove

PANEL

Two experts talk on how the sport can help the cause

Dave Baxter
Metro | Winnipeg

Boxing, sports, and human rights are set to collide at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

The Rights in the Ring panel discussion will see two people who have been connected to both the sport of boxing, and the cause of human rights speak at the CMHR on Sunday.

The focus of the panel is how boxing and sports have championed causes of human rights.

"What's interesting is boxing isn't usually connected to human rights, but these two boxers both fought in the ring and fought against discrimination," said CMHR spokeswoman Rhea Yates. "Their stories are very different but they show how the boxing ring can be a stage to advance human rights."

Johann "Rukeli" Trollmann was a star boxer in Germany who protested against the Nazi vision of a racially pure Aryan fighter by arriving at a 1933 championship fight with his hair dyed blonde and his body powdered white.

His defiant performance saw him eventually sent to a Nazi concentration camp where he was beaten to death.

His great-niece will speak in the panel discussion on Sunday.

Pardeep Singh Nagra was the 1999 Ontario light flyweight-boxing champion, but was barred from competing in the Canadian Championships when he refused to shave his beard because of his Sikh faith.

Courts eventually ruled in his favour, and the Canadian Amateur Boxing Association was forced to end what was seen as religious discrimination.

Singh Nagra will also speak at the panel discussion on Sunday.

Yates said she also thinks all sports can be a platform for education and change.

"This shows sports can reach a different audience, and advance human rights stories."

The Rights in the Ring discussion takes place Sunday from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Bonnie and John Buhler Hall at the CMHR, and admission to the discussion is free.

Johann "Rukeli" Trollmann protested against the Nazi vision of a racially pure Aryan fighter. CONTRIBUTED

Pardeep Singh Nagra was forbidden from boxing in the Canadian Championships in 1999 because he refused to shave his beard due to his faith. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Police spokesman Const. Eric Hofley speaks with reporters. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Youth faces charge in Leary killing

INVESTIGATION

Charleswood woman's death shocked community

Shane Gibson
Metro | Winnipeg

Police have charged a youth in connection to the killing of a woman in Charleswood this week that sent shockwaves through the normally quiet suburb.

Officers who were responding to the report of an injured woman found Kathleen Leary dead at her home on Cheltenham Cove Tuesday evening.

After a day of silence from police about the case — and early reports that the killing was part of a home invasion — police spokesman Const. Eric Hofley worked to quell concerns among neighbours that the killing had been random.

He told reporters Thursday that the victim and accused were known to each other and there are no other suspects.

"We recognize the fact that the public has concerns and the media wants to get information out to the public as accurately and quickly as possible, but I can't stress enough that our officers are here working for the victim," he said.

"They'll do whatever they have to do to ensure that justice is found for that victim and the other things will come to play as they do."

Hofley said the accused, whose name, age, gender and connection to the victim are protected under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, was arrested at the scene Tuesday. Hofley couldn't say whether it was the accused who called police to the scene, whether or not anyone else was in the home at the time, or what led up to the killing.

The youth, who is from Winnipeg, is facing a second degree murder charge and has been detained in custody.

IN BRIEF

Police ID man who was stabbed to death in West Alexander

Police have confirmed the name of the man who died after being found stabbed in the West Alexander neighbourhood Saturday night.

Milton Brian Richard, of Winnipeg, was rushed to hospital in critical condition from the 800 block of Alexander Avenue around 11 p.m. Saturday, and later died.

Homicide detectives are investigating and asking witnesses or anyone with information about Richard's whereabouts Saturday to call 204-986-6508 or Winnipeg CrimeStoppers at 204-786-TIPS. METRO

CRIME

Police make arrest in fatal hit-and-run

Winnipeg police say a tip from the public has led to an arrest in a hit-and-run case in the Maples that killed a 22-year-old man earlier this month.

Chris Nero was left in critical condition after he was hit by a vehicle at the corner of Inkster Boulevard and Bunting Street around 11:30 p.m. May 2. He was rushed to hospital, where he later died.

After making several pleas to the public for help tracking down the driver and the vehicle police spokesperson Const. Eric Hofley said Thursday a 75-year-old man had been arrested.

"It was that (plea) that caused an individual that had contact with this fellow to go, 'You know what, that car wasn't like that and now all of a sudden it is and it seems a little suspicious,'" said Hofley.

"We appreciate the fact that so many people called in — it creates a lot of work for our investigators — who of course are happy to do that."

Hofley said the man charged has no previous history with police and couldn't say why he didn't stop at the scene of the accident.

The man is facing a charge with failing to stop at the scene of the accident involving death and has been released on a promise to appear in court. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

A shoe was seen on the street after a fatal hit-and-run on May 2. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

Balancing hormones and weight loss

An encouraging story

Jo-Anne Yuskin had struggled with her weight all her life. She spent her life cutting back on meals and trying to exercise more. "But absolutely nothing worked," she says. "I was desperate to know what I was doing wrong. I went into the U Weight Loss Clinic at Kenaston, right here in Winnipeg, and their knowledgeable and compassionate coaches taught me the simple science behind their program." **Yuskin lost 14 pounds in her first three weeks and 60 pounds in 17 weeks**.

"I can tell you, I don't miss those 60 pounds even one little bit. I feel truly alive for the first time in decades. There are no words to explain how it feels to go from being a 54-year-old, unhappy, frustrated, overweight woman to a woman who has now completed marathons. It's still hard to believe this is me and this is my life."

U Weight Loss Clinic acted like a min-school and a mini-cooking class all wrapped in one. "I thoroughly enjoyed learning how to combine foods that would rev up my metabolism and balance my hormones."

Not only did the pounds come off quickly, but Yuskin noticed her energy level increased as her overall health improved. "I never felt deprived and there were no needles, no prepackaged foods, no crazy diets or exercise regime. It really is simple science translated into a simple lifestyle.

"Here I am, **three years later, and I feel amazing. I've kept the weight off with the knowledge I now possess**, I am empowered to keep it off for the rest of my life. I'm sharing my story because I truly want to help those who might be thinking like I used to think – nothing works when it comes to weight loss. Not so." Yuskin is hoping others will be inspired by her story.

"If my story can offer you encouragement to just give U Weight Loss Clinic a chance to show you how simple their program is, and more importantly, how you never have to think about dieting again, then I am so happy."

Jo-Anne Yuskin before.

Jo-Anne Yuskin after.

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Youth talk human rights

EDUCATION

Art designed by students, staff to be displayed at CMHR

Shane Gibson
Metro | Winnipeg

It's taken months of work, and more than a little bit of co-ordination, but the last of 15,000 individual pieces of art made by students and staff at Pembina Trails School Division were laid out on the field at Investors Group Field Thursday in the shape of the UN logo.

The project — which started in February — saw 13,000 students and 2,000 staff from every school in the division make an eight inch by 10 inch tile depicting what human rights means to them.

Then, over two days, each tile was laid out on the field.

The project has special meaning for Acadia Junior High School students Maltha Uwambajimana, 12, and Nasra Ahmed Siraj, 13, who both came to Canada from African countries and know firsthand why human rights should not be taken for granted.

Uwambajimana, who's now in Grade 7, had never been to school before coming to Canada from Tanzania in 2009 because her mom couldn't afford to send her to school.

"In my family I have seven siblings… out of all eight of us only one was allowed to go to school," she said in a speech about why she choose the right to free education for her tile. "I'm lucky to be in Canada because I get to have an education."

Siraj, who came to Canada from Somalia in 2010 and is now in Grade 8, chose the right to water for her tile, to remind Canadians how fortunate we are to have running water.

> **I want people here to try not to waste water.**
> Nasra Ahmed Siraj

Art made by students and staff from Pembina Trails School Division is seen laid out in the shape of the UN logo is seen at Investors Group Field Thursday. The massive art project was designed to bring awareness to human rights. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

"Back home we did not have clean water," she told Metro. "Sometimes we'd have to go to the lake to get it, and it's dirty water. I want people here to try not to waste water."

Now that the mosaic is complete, each tile will be removed and returned to its creator, and 99 will go on display at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights June 6 and 7.

MUSIC

Farewell to Oh My Darling

"After eight years, we have collectively made the decision to move on," reads a bittersweet goodbye note online for Winnipeg roots quartet Oh My Darling.

After touring across Canada and Europe, plus opening for Blue Rodeo and Tegan & Sara, and earning three Western Canadian Music Awards nominations, the band welcomes fans to a retrospective farewell concert at the West End Cultural Centre Sunday.

The nostalgic occasion features the group's original line-up: Marie-Josée Dandeneau, Vanessa Kuzina, Allison de Groot and Rosalyn Dennett, who left in 2013.

It's been a once in a lifetime opportunity, said bassist and singer Dandeneau of the foursome's run.

"We were all heading in a great place individually but, sadly, not together as a band," she said.

For ticket information on Oh My Darling's farewell concert, contact the West End Cultural Centre or visit ticketfly.com.

KENTON SMITH/FOR METRO

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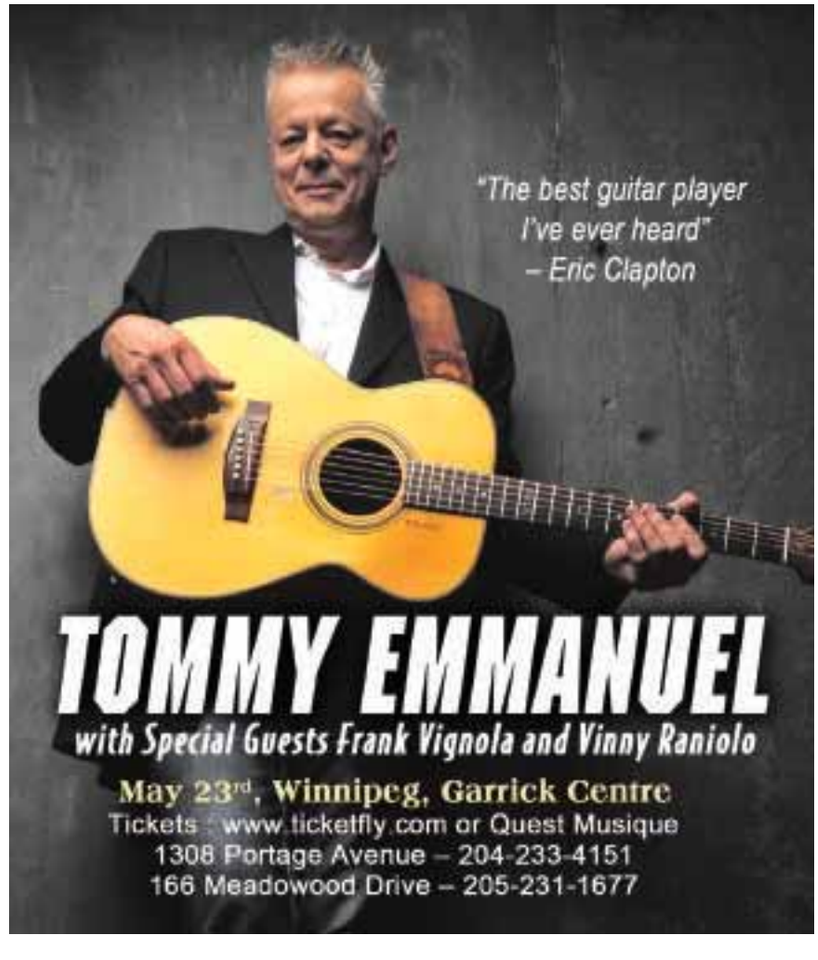
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Packaged meat is seen at a grocery store on Tuesday in Montreal. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada wins beef dispute

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

WTO rules against U.S.'s country-of-origin labels

Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz says it's time for the United States to come to terms with country-of-origin labelling rules.

The World Trade Organization ruled Monday that the U.S. labelling requirement, known as COOL, violates that country's trade obligations. It said the labels put Canadian and Mexican livestock at a disadvantage and rejected a U.S. appeal following a similar ruling last year.

"The rules have been adjudicated, the U.S. was found offside and now it's up to them to find the fix that makes us happy," Ritz said Thursday. "We're now driving the bus; we're not under it any more. So we'll see at the end of the day."

A committee of the U.S. House of Representatives has already voted to repeal the law, which requires labels that say where animals were born, raised and slaughtered.

Canada will probably be able to impose retaliatory tariffs against the United States by late summer or early fall if Washington doesn't repeal COOL rules.

"If they don't come up with the fix to COOL, like repealing it, then that's our Plan B," said Ritz.

Canada and Mexico opposed the law because it causes their animals to be segregated from animals born in the U.S. It's a costly process that has forced some U.S. companies to stop buying exports.

Congress made the labels mandatory in 2002 and 2008 farm legislation, mostly at the behest of northern U.S. ranchers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ALBERTA

Mad cow cause 'a needle in a haystack'

Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz says investigators are narrowing down how an Alberta cow was infected with BSE.

The beef breeding cow was discovered last winter on a farm near Edmonton and was born on a nearby farm.

Another cow born at the same location in 2004 tested positive for mad cow disease in 2010.

Ritz says investigators are looking for other animals that also might have been infected and any feed supplies that might be the cause.

He said it's like looking for a needle in a haystack.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CANADA POST

NDP pledges to restore home mail delivery

Canada Post's plan to end home mail delivery would become a dead letter if the NDP were to win the federal election this fall.

The post office is in the second year of a controversial five-year plan to phase out door-to-door delivery for more than five million households.

Alexandre Boulerice, the NDP's post office critic, says a New Democrat government would terminate the phase-out plan and restore service to those households that have already lost their home mail delivery.

The announcement follows a decision earlier this week by some Montreal-area mayors to join a court challenge against the phase-out of home delivery.

The mayors argue the move is unconstitutional and are hoping to turn it into a federal election issue.

The court challenge is spearheaded by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers but several groups representing seniors and disabled Canadians have joined it.

Canada Post argues that the move is necessary for the Crown Corporation to remain financially sustainable as the volume of mail declines. It is also cutting up to 8,000 jobs.

However, the NDP maintains the move is unnecessary and means Canada is en route to becoming the only major industrialized country without any home mail delivery.

Canada Post turned a profit of $194 million before tax last year. In 2013, the year in which it announced the phase-out of home delivery, the post office posted a before-tax loss of $125 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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There can be no reason to join terrorists: PM

PUBLIC SAFETY

Harper heralds new funding to keep closer eye on suspects

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says there is "no legitimate reason of any kind" for Canadians to become involved in jihadist or terrorist movements.

Harper was in Montreal on Thursday to announce funds for the RCMP and the Canada Border Services Agency in the fight against terrorism.

The RCMP will receive $150.4 million over five years, beginning in 2015-16, and $46.8 million a year after, with the money going to help the Mounties conduct terrorism-related criminal investigations.

The border-services agency will get $5.4 million over five years and $1.1 million annually in subsequent years, with some of the funds earmarked for identifying high-risk travellers.

While the Prime Minister's Office described the money as "new" and "additional," the Finance Department said later the funds had been announced in the recent federal budget but that the specific details outlined on Thursday for the RCMP and the CBSA were new.

Harper was speaking at Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, where 10 youths were arrested last weekend after being suspected of wanting to leave Canada to join jihadist groups.

"Obviously we have great sympathy for the families affected, but let us be clear: We have a great country here. We have a country that is unparalleled in terms of its freedom, its democracy, its openness and its tolerance," the prime minister told reporters after making his announcement.

"And there is no legitimate reason of any kind in this country for someone to become a violent jihadist or a terrorist or to join any kind of group that is involved (in) or advocates that kind of activity.

"It is totally unacceptable to Canada and Canadians and unacceptable to this government."

Violent jihadism is not a future trend but a current reality in Canada and around the world, Harper said, adding that the funds will be important in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Montreal on Thursday, announcing funds for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canada Border Services Agency in the fight against terrorism. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **It is no secret this is an ongoing battle. (ISIL) poses a great threat.**
> Prime Minister Stephen Harper

In recent days, ISIL militants have been on the advance, seizing the city of Ramadi in Iraq and the central Syrian town of Palmyra.

Defence Minister Jason Kenney has described the fall of Ramadi as a setback for the Iraqi military, but added it shouldn't be seen as a sign the coalition is losing the fight against ISIL.

Harper was asked in general about such advances and what the implications are for coalition forces.

"The reason the international community has intervened in Iraq is the serious threat that (ISIL) poses," he replied.

"We've had some successes, but at the same time it is no secret this is an ongoing battle, this organization poses a great threat and continues to pose a great threat, obviously to security in Iraq and Syria.

"But as long as it has a substantial territory it is occupying, it will want to use that as a base from which to launch terrorist attacks against this country."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Feds fail to stop challenge over Senate vacancies

The federal government has lost a bid to thwart a court challenge aimed at compelling Prime Minister Stephen Harper to fill Senate vacancies.

The case was launched by Vancouver lawyer Aniz Alani, who maintains the unfilled vacancies are unconstitutional, leaving provinces underrepresented and the Senate less able to carry out its constitutional role as the chamber of sober second thought. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conservatives snub talks with debate broadcasters

The game of election-debate chicken continues. The Liberals, NDP, Greens and Bloc have reached an agreement in principle with the TV consortium that has traditionally organized the debates. The Conservatives were not at a meeting Thursday with the broadcasters. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Supreme Court rules on lack of aboriginal jurors

The manslaughter conviction of an aboriginal man should not be overturned because of a lack of aboriginal jurors, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled Thursday.

In a 5-2 decision, the court found that an Ontario community made reasonable efforts to ensure the jury had adequate aboriginal representation — and that what matters is the effort, not the ultimate result.

Clifford Kokopenace had been found guilty of stabbing a friend to death on the Grassy Narrows reserve. His jury was selected from 175 potential jurors, only eight of whom were on-reserve residents. None of those made it on to the jury. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Death leads to change for students

LORETTA SAUNDERS

Support for aboriginal students focus of report

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Just over a year after her murder, Loretta Saunders' legacy has created change for aboriginal students at Saint Mary's University.

Saunders attended Saint Mary's while working on her thesis about missing and murdered aboriginal women for her honours sociology degree, and on Thursday the Halifax school released their President's Task Force Report on Aboriginal Students that includes 17 recommendations.

Dr. Peter Twohig chaired the task force and said Saunders' murder last February caused the school to reflect on what programs and supports were available to aboriginal students.

"Educational institutions are an important part of the colonial context," Twohig, a professor of history, and Atlantic Canada studies said Thursday.

"If we really want to begin to have transformational change, now's the time to start and we should start in our own house."

Saint Mary's outgoing president, Dr. Colin Dodds, had called for the task force in April and received their report in September, Twohig said.

> **We need to ... ensure that the faculty reflects the diversity of Canada.**
> Dr. Peter Twohig

The school has already acted on two recommendations by allotting funding to hire a full-time aboriginal student advisor, and establishing an Aboriginal Advisory Council that will review and decide how to roll out the other points in the report.

From there, Twohig said it's especially important to set up an Aboriginal Student Centre not only as a place for studying, but somewhere young people can feel comfortable and engage in cultural practices or have access to aboriginal mentors and staff.

Other recommendations include appointing an university elder or elder-in-residence who would provide spiritual and practical support, creating a University Chair in Indigenous Studies, increasing outreach activities to bring younger aboriginal people on campus, acknowledging SMU's spot in the Mi'kma'ki region through campus signs and flying the Mi'kmaq flag outside the McNally Building, and developing courses more relevant to the aboriginal community.

"We're not just talking about courses on the political science ... or history of aboriginal communities," Twohig said.

"Maybe courses in Sobey's school that could talk about entrepreneurialism in a reserve context ... indigenous science and indigenous ecology."

Increasing the number of professors, experts and visiting speakers from an aboriginal background is important so students can see themselves reflected, Twohig said, which goes for African Nova Scotian or international students as well.

"That can often be a source of inspiration or at least a beginning point for dialogue, and I think it's a wonderful thing," he said.

Sharon Armstrong, of Ottawa, takes part in a vigil on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on March 5, 2014, for Loretta Saunders and to call for a national inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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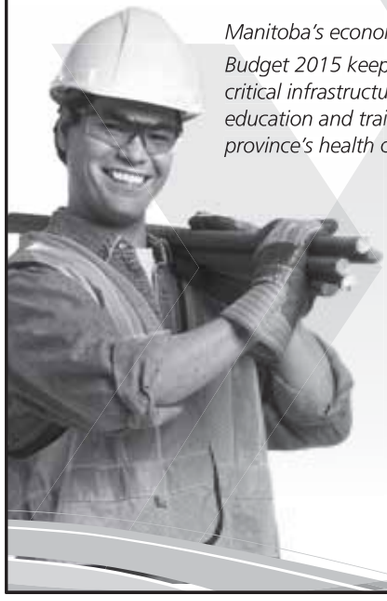

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MIGRANT CRISIS

Malaysia searches for lost boat people

Four Malaysian navy ships began searching the seas for stranded boat people Thursday, in the first official rescue operation since desperate migrants started washing onto Southeast Asia's shores, and a formerly reluctant Myanmar agreed to attend a regional meeting aimed at easing the crisis.

Thousands of Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar and Bangladeshis are believed to be trapped on boats with little food or water — some after being pushed back by the navies of at least three countries — and the international community has warned that time to save them is running out.

The announcement Thursday by Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak was the latest in a series of breakthroughs, including an offer by his country and Indonesia to provide temporary shelter to the desperate men, women and children until a more permanent solution is found.

He said he had ordered his navy and coast guard to conduct search-and-rescue efforts for other boats.

"We have to prevent loss of life," he tweeted.

Navy chief Abdul Aziz Jaafar said four vessels had been deployed, and three helicopters and three other ships were on standby.

Myanmar, which earlier hinted it would skip a regional meeting in Thailand next week bringing together representatives of more than a dozen nations, changed course Thursday, saying it would attend.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRIA

ISIL takes ancient site of Palmyra

Fears mounted over the fate of one of the Mideast's most prominent archeological sites after ISIL militants overran the historic Syrian town of Palmyra, seizing control Thursday of its temples, tombs and colonnades within hours.

The takeover also expanded the extremists' hold, making them the single group controlling the most territory in Syria.

"The Syrian regime appears to be in terminal decline, and the Islamic State (of Iraq and the Levant), in its timing, is capitalizing on recent losses by government forces in the north and south," said Amr Al-Azm, an antiquities expert and professor at Shawnee State University in Ohio.

The militants overran the famed archeological site early Thursday, just hours after seizing the nearby town in central Syria, activists and officials said.

They also captured Palmyra's airport and the notorious Tadmur prison, delivering a startling new defeat for President Bashar Assad, whose forces quickly retreated. Hundreds of Palmyra residents fled the town of 65,000, and many more were trying to escape, said Talal Barazi, the governor of central Homs province.

An oasis set in the Syrian desert, Palmyra is a strategic crossroads linking the capital Damascus and cities to the east and the west. Its capture raised alarm over some of the world's most important ancient ruins, whose fate remained unknown Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

California farmers brace for water cuts

California farmers who hold rights to water that date back as far as the Gold Rush are bracing for their first state-ordered conservation in decades, as a record drought prompts some of the deepest cuts yet in the country's most productive agricultural state.

After telling cities and towns to slash water use by 25 per cent and cutting deliveries to some farmers and others, state officials said Wednesday that they would start mandatory cuts this week to the state's oldest rights holders, who are historically spared from water restrictions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S., Cuba discuss re-establishing embassies

American and Cuban officials were trying Thursday to complete talks to re-establish embassies in each other's capitals after a half-century interruption. Many differences appeared close to being resolved.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Members of the Yes Equality campaign begin canvassing Thursday in the centre of Dublin, Ireland. People from across the Republic of Ireland will vote Friday in a referendum on the legalization of gay marriage, a vote that pits the power of the Roman Catholic Church against the secular-minded Irish government of Enda Kenny. PETER MORRISON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Premier to Ireland: Vote for gay marriage

REFERENDUM

Opinion polls suggest Yes side will win

Prime Minister Enda Kenny is urging Ireland's voters to support the legalization of gay marriage in a referendum that pits the power of the Catholic Church against his secular-minded government.

Speaking on the eve of Friday's nationwide vote, Kenny said Ireland could "create history" by becoming the first nation to cast a popular vote for gay marriage.

Kenny said voters' approval of a constitutional amendment to legalize gay marriage would represent an Irish civil rights breakthrough "that for generations gay people could never imagine."

"The 'Yes' will obliterate, publicly, the remaining barriers of prejudice or the irrational fear of the 'them' and 'us' in this regard," said Kenny, a devout Catholic who nonetheless during his four years in power has pushed to reduce the church's influence on policy and state services.

Eight opinion polls taken since the campaign opened in March suggest that the "Yes" campaign should win. Kenny's government is holding a referendum because it's considered legally necessary to add an explicit amendment to the country's 1937 constitution before lawmakers can pass the relevant legislation.

> **My voting 'No' is not a vote against gay and lesbian people. It's against changing the definition of marriage.**
> Dublin Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

All political parties and most lawmakers are on the "Yes" side. That lopsided reality, common in Irish referendums, has rebounded in previous contests when some voters, confused by the issue at hand or alienated from the political establishment, voted "No" in protest.

Catholic leaders and conservative pressure groups are arguing that legalization could produce surprising repercussions in Irish courts that could undermine traditional marriages. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LATVIA SUMMIT

EU seeks partnership with ex-Soviet nations

The European Union on Thursday urged six post-communist countries to move closer to the 28-nation bloc as a way to resist Russia's "bullying tactics," and build a brighter future for their citizens.

Speaking at the opening of a two-day summit in Riga, Latvia, European Council President Donald Tusk warned the former Soviet republics they had little to gain from falling back into Moscow's orbit instead of deepening their partnership with the West.

"The Eastern Partnership isn't a beauty contest between Russia and the EU," Tusk said. "But let me be frank, beauty does count. If Russia was a bit softer, more charming, more attractive, perhaps it would not have to compensate its shortcomings by destructive aggressive and bullying tactics against its neighbours."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel backed up Tusk's criticism of Moscow, saying that "the EU makes a crystal-clear difference with Russia. We accept that the different Eastern Partnership nations can go their own way and we accept these different ways."

The EU's partnership program with Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Belarus suffered a major setback a year and a half ago, when Ukraine's then-president Viktor Yanukovych withdrew from signing an association agreement and opted for closer links with Moscow and President Vladimir Putin.

After Yanukovych was ousted, Ukraine's new leadership turned back toward the EU but paid a heavy price: Russia annexed Crimea, large swaths of eastern territory bordering Russia are embroiled in conflict and the nation is in deep economic decline.

Meanwhile, Armenia and Belarus limited their relations with the EU by joining Russia's Eurasian Economic Union and Azerbaijan is showing little excitement about the EU partnership, sending its foreign minister to Riga instead of its president.

Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova are still seeking deeper integration, but many EU countries are reluctant to open the door for membership in the Western club. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A worker prepares an oil containment boom at Refugio State Beach, Calif., on Thursday. JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oil cleanup underway

ENVIRONMENT

Spill stretched 14 kilometres along coast of California

More than 29,000 litres of oil has been raked, skimmed and vacuumed from a spill stretching across 14 kilometres of California coast, just a fraction of the sticky crude that escaped from a ruptured pipeline, officials said Thursday.

Up to 400,000 litres may have leaked from the pipeline Tuesday, and up to 79,500 litres reached the sea just northwest of Santa Barbara, according to estimates from the pipeline operator.

400,000

The quantity of crude oil, in litres, that may have leaked from a ruptured pipeline off the coast of California on Tuesday. The spill's environmental impact is being assessed.

The environmental impact was still being assessed, but there was no immediate evidence of widespread harm to birds and sea life.

The early toll on wildlife included five oil-covered pelicans, which were taken in to be cleaned, officials said. Biologists counted dead fish and crustaceans along sandy beaches and rocky shores.

The spill occurred along a long, rustic coast that forms the northern boundary of the Santa Barbara Channel, home to a rich array of sea life. Whales, dolphins, sea lions, seals, sea otters and birds use the waters between the mainland and the Channel Islands, five of which are a national park surrounded by a national marine sanctuary.

The coastline was the scene of a much larger spill in 1969 — the largest in U.S. waters at the time — that is credited with giving rise to the American environmental movement.

Workers in protective suits shovelled black sludge off beaches, and boats towed booms into place to corral two oil slicks. The number of cleanup workers surpassed 300, and the number of boats working the slicks rose to 18, officials said.

They could get help from expected light winds and calm seas, said Sean Anderson, an environmental scientist at California State University, Channel Islands.

"When the water's choppy, the response gets complicated. But since the water's nice and flat, the oil sticks together and it's easier to spot and easier to pick up," he said.

Coast Guard Capt. Jennifer Williams said the slicks were moving seaward, not toward other beaches.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JAPAN

Taiji won't end disputed dolphin hunt

The fishing town of Taiji will not stop its dolphin hunts, the mayor said Thursday, after Japan's aquariums decided to stop buying captured dolphins under international pressure sparked by cruelty concerns.

"We are hunting under the permission of the Japanese government and prefecture, and so we will continue to protect our fishermen and the methods. We will not quit," said Kazutaka Sangen, mayor of the small town in central Japan.

Eating dolphin and whale meat is waning in Japan as people's tastes change, but some Japanese see it as no different from eating chicken or beef. They are puzzled by how the international view on dolphin and whale hunting is so different from that of traditional fishing communities like Taiji.

On Wednesday, the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums announced it would stop buying Taiji dolphins. It had risked being suspended by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), which characterized the Taiji hunt as "cruel" and decided that none of its members should acquire dolphins in such a way.

In Taiji's hunt, notoriously filmed in the Oscar-winning documentary The Cove, dolphins are scared with banging, herded into a cove and speared by fishermen for their meat. The best-looking animals are sold to aquariums and marine shows for thousands of dollars each.

Sangen scoffed at WAZA's views. "WAZA gave in to the anti-whaling activists that turned dolphin hunting into an international problem. I believe there was a better way to handle the issue," he told reporters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

There is more to the local Manitoban diet than its grain fields!

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RSVP: denisehaggertyinmd@gmail.com

This free event is presented by the Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes, part of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Space is limited.

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While Manitoba is well known for its grain fields, research shows there are health and economic benefits to increased consumption of local functional foods, including canola oil, flaxseed, and pulses. How healthy is the Manitoban diet? Are there locally grown "super foods"? Join us to hear what the experts have to say and share your thoughts.

Speakers:

Paul Fieldhouse, PhD
Adjunct Professor
University of Manitoba

Peter Jones, PhD
Professor
University of Manitoba

Lee Anne Murphy, PhD
Executive Director
Manitoba Agri-Health Research Network Inc.

Moderator:

Catherine Field, PhD, RD
Professor of Nutrition
University of Alberta

CIHR IRSC

Canada

WALRUS CAM **VIDEO STREAM UP AND RUNNING AFTER A DECADE OF DORMANCY**
A popular webcam showing male Pacific walruses lying on the beach is once again streaming on the Internet. The high-definition stream from Alaska's remote Round Island had been dormant for nearly a decade after private funding ran out. But thanks to the philanthropic organization explore.org, the cam is again up and running. COURTESY EXPLORE.ORG

SPAIN

Boy granted temporary residency

The Spanish government on Thursday granted a temporary residence permit to an eight-year-old Ivory Coast boy that a woman tried to smuggle into Spain in a suitcase.

Adou Ouattara was discovered when police scanned the suitcase May 7 in Ceuta, a Spanish city enclave in North Africa.

The Interior Ministry's office in the city said the boy's residence permit is for a year.

Police images of the scanned case shocked many and seemed to highlight the harrowing plight of migrants trying to reach Europe.

The boy's father, who lives legally with the mother in Spain, was arrested on charges of human rights abuse for trying to have the boy smuggled into the country.

His lawyer, Francesco Luca Caronna, says the man knew nothing of the plan, believing the son was to be brought in by car with a visa he paid for abroad. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elephant selfie goes global

PHOTOGRAPHY

Unexpected encounter leads to world's first 'elphie'

Christian LeBlanc, a 22-year-old from B.C., says he was feeding this elephant in Thailand when it grabbed his GoPro camera and snapped an 'elfie.' HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A British Columbia man got the vacation photo of a lifetime in Thailand — and he can't even take credit for it.

Christian LeBlanc was feeding an elephant when the animal grabbed his GoPro camera, set to continuous shooting, and snapped a photo with its trunk.

The snapshot, which LeBlanc is calling the world's first elephant selfie — or "elphie" — has gone viral after the 22-year-old recently posted it on Instagram.

The University of British Columbia student and his girlfriend were travelling on the island of Koh Phangan two months ago when they came across a couple of elephants.

LeBlanc says baskets of bananas were being sold for 50 cents to feed the pachyderms, but one of the elephants became touchy when it ran out of food.

> **To think my unexpected photo would make global news is almost unbelievable.**
> Christian LeBlanc

He says he was in shock when the animal grabbed his camera and snapped the picture, and it took him a moment to react.

"Elephants are incredibly intelligent and it definitely makes you wonder if it was a conscious action," he said in an email.

He wasn't worried because the elephant seemed quite gentle, despite its size. Luckily, the camera wasn't damaged when he got it back.

LeBlanc still can't believe the worldwide media coverage the photo has attracted.

"The global attention has been a total joy ride. I keep laughing when I see the story reach another outlet or country. To think my unexpected photo would make global news is almost unbelievable."

He jokes that his next goal is to get the attention of comedian and TV host Ellen DeGeneres, adding a hashtag: #elfieonellen.

LeBlanc had been studying abroad as part of a UBC program in Bangkok, but his semester ended two weeks ago and he is now travelling across Asia.

He and his girlfriend Laura Reid, both from White Rock, B.C., are in the Philippines, where he says he's captured another "epic" selfie — this time of a whale shark.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Check out this Facelift!

Shopify's shares jump 51% a day after stunning debut

E-COMMERCE

Ottawa-based company's IPO priced each share at $17

Shares of Shopify climbed 51 per cent in the company's first day of trading Thursday, one day after raking in $131 million in its initial public offering, more than expected.

Shopify Inc. stock rose $8.68 to close at $25.68. The offering of 7.7 million shares priced at $17 each, valuing the entire company at around $1.27 billion.

The Canadian company works with merchants who want to offer their own online checkout services, providing a platform for small- and mid-size businesses that sell products online.

The platform offers merchants the ability to manage inventory, process orders and payments, and also to interact with their customers.

Clients can use Shopify's software to handle sales made through mobile phones, the web, physical stores and other means.

Shopify said it handled about $3.8 billion in transactions in 2014, and it reported $105 million in revenue.

The jump put Shopify on pace for one of the strongest first days among companies that went public in 2015. The biggest gainers have been cancer drug developer Aduro Biotech Inc. and Shake Shack Inc., both of which more than doubled on their first day of trading.

The stock is trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol SHOP.

InfoTech Research Group senior analyst Ben Dickie says the company is attractive because of its presence in the "hot space" of mobile payments.

He says unlike other tech companies that have listed on the stock market, such as Facebook, Shopify has a clear business model and an obvious potential for revenue growth.

Regulatory filings show that Shopify lost $22.3 million last year compared to $4.8 million in 2013. Its revenue more than doubled to $105 million.

The company said it handled $3.8 billion in transactions in 2014. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUAL IPO

Shopify offered its shares on both the TSX and the New York Stock Exchange. Its shares opened in New York at $28 US and reached a high of $28.74 US. The stock closed at $31.25 on the TSX after trading as high as $35.03.

Shopify CEO Tobias Lutke, centre wearing hat, rings the New York Stock Exchange opening bell on Thursday, marking the Canadian company's IPO. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SHOPIFY

E-Commerce: Shopify targets small- and medium-sized business with software for designing, building and managing sales across the web, mobile applications and stores. Its 165,000 customers in 150 countries include Tesla Motors and the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers. Sixty per cent of its client base is in the U.S.

Value: The company's IPO was priced at $17 US per share, up from the $14 to $16 range the company had previously indicated, because of investor interest.

Humble beginnings: The company grew from the modest ambitions of three Ottawa men looking to sell snowboarding equipment online. The platform they built turned into Shopify, which began offering its services to other businesses in 2006. The original snowboarding shop is still selling boards, bindings and goggles on the web.

Growth: Originally five people, Shopify now has more than 500 employees in Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. The company's new six-floor, 102,000-square-foot headquarters in downtown Ottawa can accommodate 740 employees and Shopify plans to fill the space.

Business model: Around 60 per cent of Shopify's revenue comes from selling subscriptions to its platform. It offers a variety of plans at different price points. THE CANADIAN PRESS

OECD STUDY

Wealth gap hits growth

The widening gap between haves and have-nots in much of the developed world is holding back economic growth, according to a new global study.

Far from a rising tide lifting all ships, income inequality increases in good economic times as well as bad, Thursday's report from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development says.

An increase in income inequality between 1985 and 2005 knocked 4.7 percentage points off cumulative growth between 1990 and 2010 on average across its 34 member countries, it concluded in its report, In It Together, Why Less Inequality Benefits All.

The problem is particularly acute in the U.S.: Between 2008 and 2013, real average household disposable income at the top 10 per cent rose 10.6 per cent, while in the bottom 10 per cent it fell 3.2 per cent, the OECD said.

Policies to improve women's treatment in the labour market and measures to reverse the growing share of low-quality, "dead-end" jobs are key to reducing income inequality and unlocking more economic growth, the OECD said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Check out this Facelift!

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
WEEKEND, May 22-24, 2015

Happy face/Sad face

From **mangled maps** to **Arctic adventures**, Metro weighs in on the news making headlines this week

Multiple Maritime map mix-ups

A Calgary tour company had to apologize twice this week for bungling maps of two provinces. A brochure from Anderson Vacations advertised three Newfoundland landmarks — Deer Lake, Main Brook, and the capital, St. John's — on a map of Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island. The company said sorry a second time for a map that identified St. John's, N.L. as Saint John, a city in New Brunswick. CBC.CA

Missing man safe after 60km Arctic trek

Parks Canada employee Brian Koonoo, who was reported missing May 15 from Hall Beach, Nunavut, turned up this week after a four-day search through freezing temperatures and blowing snow. Koonoo, an expert hunter, lost his radio. His snowmobile broke down and his GPS ran out of batteries. With help of a map app, on Wednesday at 5:30 a.m., he arrived on foot at his destination, Repulse Bay, after a 60-km stroll. CBC.CA

Pot may be bad news for boys' growth

Smoking marijuana early in life can interfere with boys' development, says a new study from the European Society of Endocrinology. Researchers measured hormones in the blood of 220 non-smoking and 217 marijuana-addicted boys. Puberty hormones were elevated, and growth hormones depressed, in marijuana smokers. The non-smokers were an average four kilograms heavier and 4.6 inches taller by age 20. SCIENCEDAILY.COM

Teen hailed for healthy invention

Forget baking-soda volcanoes: A Vancouver student invented a way to curb global epidemics for his science project — and now he's $75,000 US richer. Raymond Wang, 17, won first prize at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, Pa. on Friday. He created a new air circulation system to redirect air to give everyone their own breathing space in aircraft cabins. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thanks, Air Canada, for the laugh at others' pain

THE KOHLER REPORT
Rebecca Kohler

Do you ever find yourself deriving pleasure in other people's misfortunes? Like when you run into an ex-boyfriend who, for every hair he's lost, has gained a pound? There's a term for this perverse glee. It's called schadenfreude (from the German words schaden, for "damage" and freude, meaning "joy"). Well, I had some major damage-joy this week when I heard Air Canada was going to start cracking down on carry-on luggage. That's right, as of next week, Air Canada will be carefully inspecting your carry-on. If it's too big, they'll charge you $25 to check it.

Now, you might be thinking, "Rebecca, you idiot, you're also going to suffer — you are deriving pleasure from your own misfortune." But here's the thing, I won't. I won't suffer from this new rule because I was never one of those people who tried to bring my refrigerator onto the plane. My bags were always the appropriate size because I'm what they call a "rule-follower" (a.k.a. a brown-noser).

I tried a few times to bring my overnight clothes on board but almost every time I'd get singled out and be forced to check my bag at the gate. It's like when I travel, I turn into Mr. Bean and nothing goes my way. Flight attendants would stop me and tell me my bag was too big. Meanwhile, I'd see another person get on board with a cello and a pet elephant.

One time, as I boarded, I was told there was no overhead space left — a situation familiar to those who are often last to board (not-rich people). I checked my tiny suitcase, but when I got to my seat, I was shocked to find the overhead bin empty — while this is the kind of irony that made Alanis Morissette famous, all it caused for me was severe irritation.

Since giving up on trying to bring an extra set of undies on board, I have gritted my teeth while watching others get away with carry-on murder: "laptop" bags that could fit a desktop computer from 1988, or those people who affix two small suitcases together so it looks like one (you know who you are).

And because of those people, often — by the time I get on board with my modest but cool Herschel backpack — I can't even store it overhead and am forced to cram it down by my feet, giving me even less leg room than the centimetre I was allotted.

I won't suffer under this new rule, because I was never one of those people who tried to bring my refrigerator onto the plane.

So, yeah, I can't wait for the next time I fly, when I will get to watch everyone else go through what, for some reason, I've been going through my entire life. See you at the baggage carousel, suckers!

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The government love sleuth's guide to spotting true passion

We're lucky we've got the government to judge and sanction modern love.

Just look at a Citizenship and Immigration Canada training document from 2007 — revealed this week — which offers tips on how to spot "non-genuine marital relationships."

The extra tool to counter "an observed temporary spike in cases of marriages of convenience," as a spokesperson put it, undoubtedly helped immigration officers in Ottawa cubicles identity the real deal, before the rules changed a few years ago.

And since what is love internationally is love domestically, it's helpful for us all.

For example, Chinese nationals marrying non-Chinese are suspicious. Restaurant receptions are dubious. No honeymoon, "not even a couple of days away"? Likely, no love. Oh, and diamonds, in ring form, are obligatory.

An age difference of more than 10 years (like that of my long-married parents) is a red flag. A lack of photos equals a lack of romance. And different ethnic and education backgrounds show lovers are pulling a scam. After all, in modern times, like marries like.

The document also clarifies that money DOES buy love, and is in fact key to its veracity. Sparing no cost on a wedding isn't cliché – it's credible.

Of course, this all makes it hard for poor people to avoid a sham marriage. And sadly, it means a few of my friends have love that's a lie.

Like the Canadians who eloped in Austin, Texas, using rings they already owned. And the ones who wed at a cottage without parents or professional photos.

I have bad news, too, for my friend who married a man from India, possibly one of those "very poor" countries that are a source of frauds looking for a better life. After all, the "more they have to gain, the higher the bar is to satisfy the bona fides."

Thank God I'm with an American; someone who "doesn't gain that much." I'm even grateful this document was released (via an access to information request). It will help us plan the right romantic evidence for the government love sleuth.

For instance, we won't use photos of us in pyjamas or cooking — like my colleague did on her application. They're an obvious attempt to prove fake cohabitation. She had to cough up better proof.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada, let it be said, has a very tough job measuring love. And if our non-traditional, on-the-cheap, interracial and sans-family weddings just don't match the state's ideals, we know who's wrong.

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Violent theft in Paris down as city reinforces police presence, increases video surveillance

Tempted by Tomorrowland?

OPENING WEEKEND

Disney remains mum on plot details of their $190M film

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse

We're about to reach the tipping point of the summer and it's not even the end of May.

In a summer crowded with sequels like Avengers: Age of Ultron and Pitch Perfect 2; reboots like Terminator Genisys and Jurassic World; remakes like Poltergeist and Entourage — a TV show blown up for the big screen — along comes Tomorrowland, a big-budget film based on an original idea.

Not every film this year is a sequel, prequel or the like, but Tomorrowland, with a budget topping out at $190 million, is the most expensive original film to come down the pike this year.

Borrowing its name from the futuristic themed land found at Disney parks, the movie stars George Clooney as a former boy genius, and Britt Robertson as a gifted teenager, who — according to the press materials — "travel to a place somewhere in time and space only known as Tomorrowland where their actions directly affect the world and themselves."

Disney is deliberately keeping plot details under wraps, hoping the allure of mysterious trailers will draw people in. It's the opposite of the usual strategy of showcasing the film's highlights in a two-minute promo.

I was at the D23 Expo in Anaheim, Calif. — imagine the Disney version of Comic Con — in 2013 when Brad Bird and Damon Lindelof unveiled the name of the movie, but little else.

In a splashy presentation they claimed a "dusty old box" labelled 1952, that was found in the Disney Imagineering archives, had inspired the story.

Containing a mysterious mishmash of items, including a 1928 copy of Amazing Stories magazine, a photograph of Walt Disney and Amelia Earhart allegedly taken after her disappearance, a short animated documentary and an unidentified metal object, they said the idea of the film is to ask "what if these mystery clues were real?"

Teasing the potential audience into buying tickets is an intriguing but risky idea. It's a risk Bird was willing to take. He turned down the chance to direct Star Wars: Episode VII — The Force Awakens, to make Tomorrowland, saying, "it's rare to do a film of this size that's original, so those opportunities can't be missed either."

But will it be an opportunity that moviegoers will embrace? Suggesting that Hollywood only feels comfortable with movies that are pre-sold via brand recognition is an understatement. Whether it is a familiar title with a number added or any movie from the mighty Marvel stable, the big studios aren't in the habit of taking chances and it's not their fault. It's ours.

Britt Robertson stars in Tomorrowland, the most expensive original film to come out this summer. CONTRIBUTED

One of the main complaints I hear from people is that there are no interesting movies in release and yet Furious 7 and Age of Ultron have grossed amounts equal to the GNP of some small nations.

By supporting big-budget "branded" movies, we send the message that original stories don't interest us, only ones that give us what we expect.

While we have the chance, why not take a chance on a movie that takes a risk?

That's the tipping point. Check out Tomorrowland or Ex Machina.

If sci-fi isn't your thing, how about Aloha or Inside Out? There is room for all kinds of movies but why not vote with your feet and let the studios know that their steady diet of sequels, prequels and reboots is quickly nearing its best-by date.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Tomorrowland ★★★
Welcome To Me ★★★★
Banksy Does New York ★★★

HOW RATING WORKS	
★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
★	SKIP IT

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NEW RELEASES

Matthew MacCaull infuses bit role with ''60s swagger'

Making your mark as a bit player in an eye-popping, effects-laden Disney movie featuring George Clooney is no easy feat.

But that's what Montreal-born actor Matthew MacCaull set out to do with his brief appearance in the futuristic Tomorrowland, a kid-friendly adventure tale drawing on both the name and wondrous spirit of the otherworldly theme park.

Britt Robertson stars as a brilliant teen who finds a pin that transports her momentarily to what seems to be the future.

When she's zapped back to the present day she enlists the help of Clooney's character, a former boy genius named Frank Walker, in her bid to find this parallel world again.

MacCaull's character Dave Clark is a mysterious figure intent on protecting the secrets of Tomorrowland. He doesn't get much screen time, but MacCaull saw an opportunity to stand out nonetheless.

"I thought that he could be a really memorable character and I thought if I do my work right, he might be even an iconic character," MacCaull says.

"The answer was: Do as much work as you can. If you wake up in the middle of the night and you have an idea, get out of bed and work on it, don't wait. Just work on it right now. So there were definitely a couple of sleepless nights.''

MacCaull began strategizing when he scored an audition, even though he had virtually no information on the role. He says he was only told a few key details — the name of the film, the name of the character and the fact that director Brad Bird (Ratatouille, The Incredibles) and screenwriter Damon Lindelof (Lost, Star Trek Into Darkness, Prometheus) were involved. The name Dave Clark immediately had him thinking about '60s English rockers The Dave Clark Five, so he decided to infuse the role with a "sort of '60s swagger.''

"It was just one of those moments where an actor has to make a choice and actors always make choices,"said the 37-year-old MacCaull, whose parents and family are from Prince Edward Island.

"And so I just thought, 'I think I've got some creative freedom here to make some bigger choices.' And luckily, I guess I was right.''

MacCaull's big break comes after more than a decade of chipping away at background work, commercial auditions and bit parts in smaller productions. That's on top of a variety of day jobs including a stint as a travelling toilet brush salesman in Halifax, a trucker in the United Kingdom, and a lifeguard in Vancouver, which is still how he spends his summers.

"It was just so hard," MacCaull admits of his long road to establishing an acting career.

"You have all your friends asking you how you're doing, how's it going and you just don't want to tell them that you're failing at it every day." THE CANADIAN PRESS

George Clooney stars in a new Disney film about trying to go back to the 1960s to make the world a better place. DISNEY 2015

George Clooney: aging actor, eternal optimist

TOMORROWLAND

He plays bitter in new sci-fi film, but inside he's nothing but hopeful

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Life

George Clooney may be one of the few bona fide movie stars we have left, but he still thinks he's a bit out of place in the summer blockbuster arena.

"Putting me in a summer movie is a very bold thought," he says with his trademark smirk. "First and foremost, I think it's a really bold thing for Disney to be willing to do a film that isn't a sequel and isn't a comic book and truly invest in a summer film of this sort of ilk."

Which sort of ilk, exactly? Tomorrowland, directed by Brad Bird and written by Bird and Lost creator Damon Lindelof, features Clooney as "a former boy genius who's gotten bitter in his old age" — to hear Clooney himself describe it — who teams up with a precocious teen (Britt Robertson) to get back to the secret world of Tomorrowland, where the smartest minds disappeared back in the 1960s to build a better future.

"Just so we're clear, when Damon and Brad showed up at my house, they said, 'We've got a part we've written for you,'" Clooney remembers. "And then I opened up the description of the character — 'A 55-year-old has-been.' I'm kind of going, 'Wait, hey, hey, hey, hang on a minute. Which part am I reading for?'"

> **What I loved about the film was that it reminds you that young people don't start out their lives cynical or angry.**
> George Clooney

Luckily, 54-year-old Clooney got over any lingering sense of vanity. "I just loved the idea," he says. "We live in a world right now where you turn on your television set and it's rough out there and it's not fun, and it can really wear on you after a period of time. We see generations now feeling as if it's sort of hopeless in a way. What I love about it is it speaks to the idea that your future is not preordained and predestined, and that if you're involved, a single voice can make a difference — and I believe in that."

That 1960s optimism is something Clooney would like to see more of here in the 21st century.

"I grew up during the Cold War period, and I always found that although we always thought that the world would end in a nuclear holocaust at some point, everybody was pretty hopeful," he says.

"There was an awful lot of things going on that you felt you could change. I grew up in an era where the voice, the power of the one really did feel as if it mattered. What I loved about the film was that it reminds you that young people don't start out their lives cynical or angry or bigoted. You have to be taught all of those things. I watch the world now and think well, I see really good signs from young people out there and I feel as if the world will get better. I've always been an optimist. I've been a realist, but I've been an optimist about it."

On the darker side of funny

SOPHOMORE DIRECTOR

Shira Piven takes a risk in comedy about mental illness

Steve Gow
For Metro

When Shira Piven went searching for a story to make her second movie, she came across a script that might have scared off a lot of other filmmakers. After all, Welcome To Me isn't just a comedy — it's a comedy about mental illness.

"I feel like the script was written with care," explained the sophomore director from Los Angeles. "It's definitely risky to make a movie that has funny elements about a woman who has borderline personality disorder, which is a very real thing, but there are lots of funny things that happen in real life; lots of absurb moments that we all stumble into — even people with mental illness — so the tone of the script was very familiar to me."

Even so, Piven insists she was "extremely careful and respectful" in crafting the fictional comedy about unstable Alice Klieg (Kristen Wiig) — a woman who wins the lottery and, inspired by her idol Oprah Winfrey, buys herself a talk show in which to broadcast her own incredibly personal interests and issues.

"I think the mental illness illuminates the social illness in the movie," said Piven, referring to the parallels of Klieg's obsession with today's cultural infatuation to "broadcast" our lives through social media.

Piven also admits that casting Kristen Wiig was key to balancing that fine line between drawing laughs and simply treading on a sensitive social issue. Although Wiig is best known for crafting sidesplitting characters from her days on Saturday Night Live, the Bridesmaids star portrays Alice Klieg with subdued poignancy.

"I was inspired by certain performances that I'd seen," says Piven, who specifically points to Martin Scorsese's 1982 film The King of Comedy in which comedians Jerry Lewis and Sandra Bernhard played serious parts. "They played it absolutely straight so they were fascinating. I find the darker side of funny people really fascinating (so) I felt that I wanted an actress like Kristen — an actress that really began in a comic place intuitively but could also go to more tragic, darker places."

> **I find the darker side of funny people really fascinating**
> Director Shira Piven

Kristen Wiig in the dark comedy Welcome to Me. CONTRIBUTED

ON THE SET

Wind Kristen Wiig up, and let her go

"That's your job as a director when you're working with good people," said Shira Piven of working with Kristen Wiig.

"Create an environment where they feel free to play and be their most free self. So a lot of time it was just about keeping a very relaxed atmosphere on set and making sure she felt safe and comfortable trying a lot of different things."

Improvising and flexing her comedy muscle

Co-produced by her longtime husband and filmmaker Adam McKay, Piven admits the Anchorman-director helped her flex her comedy muscle.

"He's got this kind of amazing method of directing comedy and when he produces, he always encourages directors to use improvisation and get alternate takes," said Piven.

"Its not entirely a comedy but definitely, (he) gave me more confidence to do more improvising."

COMEDY SEQUEL

Pitch Perfect 2 star Brittany Snow finds humour in having a nervous breakdown

The girls from Pitch Perfect are back, and if you think that Brittany Snow's character, Chloe, should have graduated by now, you're not wrong. For Snow, that meant playing a character pretending to be dumb enough not to graduate — all for the sake of a cappella.

Exactly how many years has your character been in college now?

Um ... she was a sophomore in the first one, so she's failed, I think, now three times? Yeah. She just loves being a Bella and just can't give it up. They wanted her to still be involved and unable to let go, and because she's had to stay in school to be a Bella she has to get more and more dumb.

How do you approach playing a character who is intentionally trying to seem dumb?

The way to play that is to make her not dumb. She believes wholeheartedly everything that she's saying, and she really passionately cares about these girls and this legacy. You see that in the first one and you definitely see that in this one, that she cares so much about this. It's her entire life. She only sees what's in front of her and she doesn't see that eventually you have to move on.

Speaking of, where do you see her going after she finally leaves college?

Because she's an extremist and she only does things to 100 per cent, she probably would take it in the exact opposite way and really let go of everything. I just have this image of her being a hippie, just living in a commune or, like, in a field, going to Burning Man.

Brittany Snow. CONTRIBUTED

But she would be, like, really into Burning Man, right?

She's really into Burning Man. She's doing all of the activities and everything. She's probably manning all the booths (laughs).

How did you find the right balance for the humour in this?

When we got the script it was very edgy, and I was extremely excited because it really didn't shy away from all things funny, no matter what or who it offended. A lot of that has been cut because we couldn't make that movie with a PG-13 rating.

What sort of offensive stuff are we talking about?

My character was drunk a lot of the time and jumping in the pool and going a little bit crazy, and that got cut as well. Chloe's definitely still having a nervous breakdown, but she's not drunk — which is unfortunate, because I really liked playing that.

NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

FALL JAM 4
featuring
4 pm - 4:45pm
Peace Trigger
5:15 pm - 6 pm
Double Shot
6:15 pm - 7 pm
The Bobcatz with
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Helix
7:15 pm - 8 pm
The Rock Show
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Emily Blunt calls role 'intelligent argument'

WOMEN AT CANNES

Sicario star uses her work to celebrate women in film

British actress Emily Blunt at the Cannes Film Festival. BERTRAND LANGLOIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Emily Blunt didn't come to the Cannes Film Festival to talk about shoes.

She may have breezily, without hesitation, called out the silliness of any red-carpet dress code that would turn away women in flat shoes "in 2015," drawing headlines for her matter-of-fact defence of several heel-less guests who were refused admission to a premiere.

Blunt won't hesitate to speak her mind, but she would rather let her actions — and her characters — do the talking.

"We need to take more action and talk less about it," Blunt said in an interview shortly after her Sicario premiered at Cannes. "Instead of having nights that celebrate women in Hollywood, we should organize programs where you pay for female writers to develop their skills."

Blunt's skills are prominently on display in Sicario, a drug war thriller directed by Denis Villeneuve that's among the films competing in Cannes for the Palme d'Or. As practically the only female in the film, her strong presence anchors Sicario.

"I don't ever relate to characters that don't have their s—- together in their 30s," says Blunt. "I've been offered a couple of parts like that and I just say, 'I don't relate to it. I don't understand it.' I don't have an interest in playing those kinds of parts. As I get older, I just love seeing people that don't have their head in their hands. I like seeing people who cope."

> **I don't ever relate to characters that don't have their s— together in their 30s**
> Emily Blunt

The performance in Sicario has put Blunt among the women who have defined this year's Cannes Film Festival, from Cate Blanchett in the '50s lesbian drama Carol to Charlize Theron in the dystopian drag race Mad Max: Fury Road, for their solitary strength in male-dominated worlds.

Before Blunt came aboard Sicario, there was pressure to change her role to a man.

"It's more an anomaly to see a character like this in cinema," says Blunt.

"But the reality from the FBI agents that I spoke to, there's a lot of chicks in law enforcement. We just don't make movies about them very often."

The 32-year-old Blunt , who's married to actor John Krasinski, hesitated at tackling the grim, brutal tale of Sicario (which translates as hitman).

Villeneuve, the Québécois director of Prisoners and Incendies, met with the British actress four weeks after she gave birth to her daughter. She was feeling, she says, "the opposite of the character."

"It seemed at the time like a bad fit for me to be doing at that point in my life," says Blunt.

"But I actually thought: This is really good to put out there for my daughter ... for her to see.

"I start to think now, becoming a mother: What am I putting out there in the world and what affect will that have? It's not only a really fantastic role for a woman; it's an intelligent argument."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THRILLER

Villeneuve's look at a violent drug war

Canadian director Denis Villeneuve unveiled his drug war thriller Sicario at the Cannes Film Festival on Tuesday, premiering a muscular saga that plunges deep into Mexico only to reveal more about the other side of the border.

"For me, the movie's not about Mexico," Villeneuve told reporters. "The movie's about America."

Emily Blunt stars as an FBI agent enlisted to a task force led by a cocky CIA operative (Josh Brolin). They're joined by a mysterious Columbian played by Benicio del Toro. In clandestine raids into Mexico and other illicit activities, they attempt to bring down a cartel boss.

A bleakly violent thriller, Sicario is the Québécois director's second collaboration with the revered cinematographer Roger Deakins. Like their 2013 kidnapping drama Prisoners, it's heavy with allusion to the morality of employing violent military tactics for the sake of American safety.

"We are living in a time where grey zones are more blurred than ever," said Villeneuve.

Del Toro, though, said the drug trafficking drama of Sicario, which Lionsgate will release in the U.S. on Sept. 18, is familiar territory for him.

"I'm an old horse when it comes to that problem," the Puerto Rican actor said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FEMALE LEAD

Director said no to rewrite
The director acknowledged that there was initially pressure for Emily Blunt's protagonist to be rewritten for a male actor.

> **We are living in a time where grey zones are more blurred than ever.**
> Denis Villeneuve, director of Sicario, on the morality of employing violent military tactics for the sake of American safety

Director Denis Villeneuve. LUIS RICARDO MONTEMAYOR CISNEROS

CANNES OUT-OF-COMPETITION SCREENING

Explicit film Love brings graphic 3D sex scenes to screens at Cannes

A scene from the explicit 3D romance Love. CONTRIBUTED

The movies are in love with love, but they're often squeamish about sex.

That's not something that can be said about director Gaspar Noe, whose new film Love brings graphic sex — in myriad positions, in twosomes, threesomes and groups — to the Cannes Film Festival.

A depiction of turbulent youthful relationships, it's extremely explicit — and it's in 3D. Love is full frontal, in-your-face filmmaking.

"I want to make movies out of blood, sperm and tears," said the central male character, an American film student in Paris. That could be Noe's motto, too.

> **I want to make movies out of blood, sperm and tears**
> Love's male lead

The director wants to smash the convention that keeps graphic eroticism out of mainstream cinema.

Love stars American actor Karl Glusman and European performers Aomi Muyock and Klara Kristin as the members of a turbulent love triangle in Paris. The actors said they were initially uncomfortable with the film's all-baring intimacy, though they came to embrace it.

Love offers an eye-catching mix of sex and 3D, a technology Noe says he used because it was a new challenge.

The film was — unsurprisingly — one of the most anticipated films at Cannes, where it is playing as a special out-of-competition screening.

Yet some reviewers found it disappointingly limp. The Guardian newspaper called it "50 shades of vanilla."

Whatever the critics say, sex will sell Love — and also limit its commercial prospects.

It will probably have a limited release in the United States.

"The Americans, when it comes to film distribution, they can be very square," Noe said.

"I think this movie could never have been done in America. No way." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Finding humour in the horror

SHOCK

Metro looks at the lighter side of The Human Centipede films

Chris Alexander
Metro | Life

Even if you haven't had the pleasure (?) of viewing one of filmmaker Tom Six's dubiously iconic films that fall under the The Human Centipede handle, you likely are at least aware of them.

The franchise — whose third offering, The Human Centipede 3: Final Sequence, gets released today on VOD — is inarguably among the most vile series of horror films ever unleashed, telling their tales as they do, of madmen who think stitching humans together rectum to mouth to form a scatological daisy chain is a some kind of reasonable idea.

But beneath Six's sickening shock tactics and vomit-inducing scenes lurk savvy, transgressive comedies; blackly funny affairs in which scenes of gruesome psychological and biological terror serve as the, ahem, butt of the joke.

Here, Metro takes a look at the lighter side of The Human Centipede films and finds the funny in the running horror joke Tom Six has been playing on us.

FIRST SEQUENCE

The Human Centipede (2009)

Six's maiden voyage into mad oral/anal science stars German actor Dieter Laser as the psychotic surgeon Dr. Heiter, who opts to kidnap three unfortunate souls to fulfil his dreams of six-legged gory glory. This is a grim, conceptually hideous film and yet there are moments of hilarious absurdity. Laser himself is a cartoon, like something teleported out of the broadest Mel Brooks spoof; he stalks hallways, glowers with bug eyes and goes off on outrageous ranting tangents with theatrical aplomb. Scenes in which he attempts to "train" his creation with a riding crop are sublimely silly as is the moment where he jumps up and down, giggling like a six-year-old while his "centipede" feeds. Gross? Sure. Funny? Absolutely.

FULL SEQUENCE

The Human Centipede 2 (2011)

Six returned two years later with this operatically vile black-and-white sequel. The fact that Six responded to the studio cutting the film by saying, "it's like I made a comedy and they take out all the good jokes!" tells one all you need to know about the film's tongue in (butt) cheek intentions. In it, Martin Lomax (Laurence Harvey) becomes obsessed with the first film and, exploiting his position as a security guard in an underground parking garage, traps victims to make his own super-centipede. Of course, Martin is not a doctor, and what he lacks in surgical know-how, he makes up for with a staple gun and the biggest tub of liquid laxatives ever seen, resulting in vomitous hilarity. HC2 is so far removed from reality and so over the top that it feels like a John Waters movie on steroids.

FINAL SEQUENCE

The Human Centipede 3 (2015)

With this supposedly final film, Six channels Cecil B. DeMille by launching a 500-person centipede using real actors and no CGI. This full-blown meta-comedy sees Laser returning as a megalomaniacal prison warden and Harvey as his simpering sidekick. After watching the first two films, they decide to solve the problem of feeding the inmates by sewing them together. With Laser chewing scenery, Laurence sweating and sniggering, the extreme social commentary of prison overpopulation and the casting of eccentric Hollywood actor Eric Roberts as the leering governor, HC3 is the last word in berserk bad taste and as such, is one of the funniest horror films ever made.

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The songs of summer

Everyone needs an anthem for the sunny days and balmy nights of the fair weather months. Take this quiz to find out what your summer song of 2015 should be.

Emily Laurence METRO NEW YORK

1 How do you plan on celebrating your first Friday of summer?
a. Spending it with bae
b. Hitting the beach with your friends
c. Day drinking outside

2 Sometimes you fantasize about moving to:
a. Another city
b. The beach
c. The country with lots of land

3 What's your dancing style?
a. You like to get your grind on
b. Acting silly and jumping around
c. You don't dance

4 Your ideal partner:
a. Can cook
b. Has a bit of a wild side
c. You can bring home to mom

5 What do you usually change into after work on a Friday?
a. Something stylish because you usually go out
b. Your job is pretty laidback, so you usually don't change
c. Boxers and a T-shirt

6 Your Instagram is mostly photos of:
a. You're not going to lie. There's a lot of selfies.
b. Cool street art around the city
c. Food

7 Your summer mission is:
a. Get a VIP pass to a hotel rooftop pool
b. Take advantage of all the free outdoor concerts
c. Go on an epic road trip

The crowd at this spring's Coachella Valley Music And Arts Festival in Indio, California. MATT COWAN/GETTY IMAGES

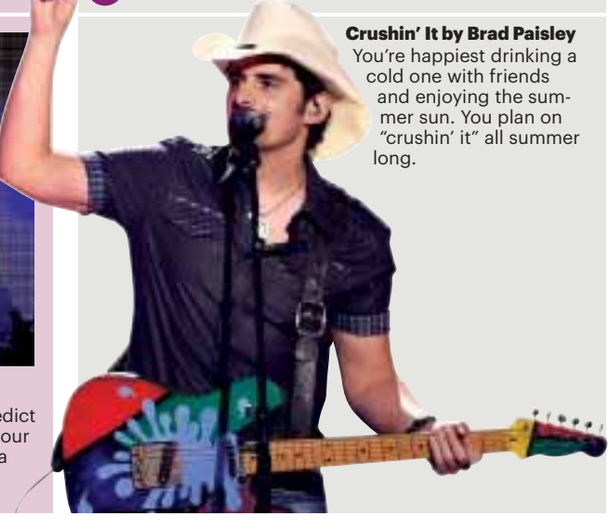
MOSTLY A'S

Trap Queen by Fetty Wap
You're in love — or at least in lust — and plan on enjoying summer's long days with your partner in crime. Whether it's heating up the dance floor or staying home and making pies with your baby, this summer is all about your boo.

MOSTLY B'S

Shut Up And Dance by Walk The Moon
This summer, you're looking for adventure and we predict you're in for one heck of a ride if you keep following your "wherever the night may lead" mindset. When you're a "victim of the night," who knows what might happen?

MOSTLY C'S



Crushin' It by Brad Paisley
You're happiest drinking a cold one with friends and enjoying the summer sun. You plan on "crushin' it" all summer long.

metro TRAVEL
Your essential daily news

Odds of finding a good hotel and yummy meal in Asia are highest in Cambodia: TripAdvisor

One World wonder

From the top of One World Trade Center, videos and multimedia displays reflect the hope and optimism of a tower and a city that rose from the ruins of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS EXCEPT FOR ONE WORLD TRADE CENTRE, BY ISTOCK

AT THE TOP

Panoramic city views

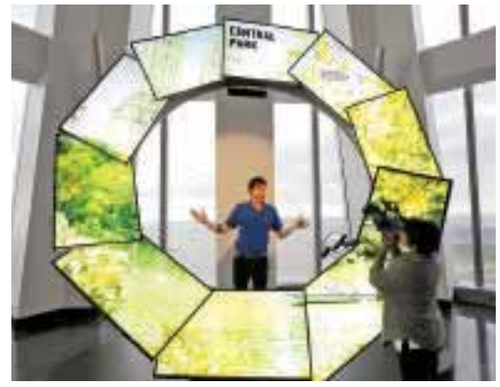
At the observatory, which opens May 29, visitors can stand on a round video platform that shows an actual livestream of the view straight down. There's also wraparound views stretching 80 kilometres past the Manhattan skyline to the Atlantic Ocean. On the elevator ride down, LED screens surrounding passengers simulate the flight of a bird or plane high above the site, dipping and soaring around the skyscrapers all the way back to the ground.

$32 **Price of an adult ticket to One World Observatory. Tickets for seniors cost $30 and $26 for children.**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHAT'S IN THE OBSERVATORY

Panels inform visitors

Stepping from the elevator to the One World Observatory, visitors are greeted with display panels showing 3D, bird's-eye scenes of the metropolis. The panels then lift to reveal New York City — right now. There's another display called City Pulse, a ring of high-definition video monitors marking popular city activities, neighbourhoods and "hot spots." A wave of the hand in the direction of any of these subjects opens further details.



"This is a reminder of moving forward.
David Checketts, CEO of Legends, operator of One World Observatory

WHEN YOU ENTER

Workers tell their stories

Just above the street-level entrance, faces of men and women who toiled to erect the gleaming, 1,776-foot, 104-storey tower appear in a jagged tunnel that replicates the building's bedrock, their recorded voices filled with both pain and pride. And during the 48-second elevator ride up to the 102nd floor, a 3D, time-lapse panorama shows 515 years of history at the tip of Manhattan, with the twin towers of the original World Trade Center appearing for less than four seconds before dissolving out of view.

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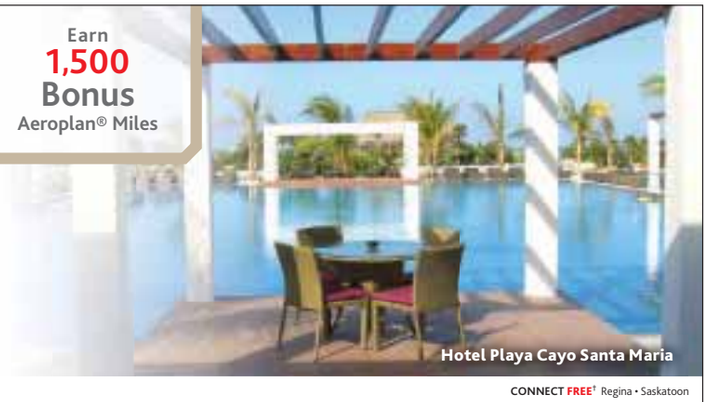
Hotel Playa Cayo Santa Maria

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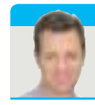
3 GREAT GRAPE-GROWING REGIONS OF THE WORLD



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie

Whether you're a serious oenophile or simply a tourist looking for a tipple, a vineyard visit is a great way to enjoy outstanding cuisine, get a peek into local culture, and of course, sample wine.

ISTOCK

1 Marlborough, New Zealand

Driving around the towns of Blenheim and Renwick, lovers of Sauvignon Blanc will recognize familiar names such as Cloudy Bay and Villa Maria from the shelves of their liquor stores back home. However, make sure to check out some of unknowns; the Twelve Trees restaurant at the Allan Scott wineries served up an incredible lunch of the area's locally farmed greenshell mussels and the colonial-style Bistro at Hans Herzog is renowned throughout the country. Stay at the charming St Leonards Vineyard Cottages in Blenheim; the Woolshed cottage overlooks the vineyard and an orchard of lemon trees full of goats.

2 Alsace, France

The region of Alsace sits nestled against the Vosges Mountains on the French side of the border between Germany and France. The region produces eight varietals but is best known for its Riesling, which is less sweet than you might expect. The region is relatively small and is best explored by bike. Some of the larger towns of Colmar or Molsheim make good places to base yourself, but make sure to take time to explore the stunning and charming villages in between. Riquewihr is a picture-perfect postcard example of the region's unique architecture, which is influenced by its close proximity to Germany.

PETER REMUS

ISTOCK

3 Okanagan Valley, B.C.

Here in Canada, British Columbia's Okanagan Valley is a great choice, particularly if you are fan of red wine. Headquarter yourself in Kelowna, recognized as the birthplace of the province's wine industry and home to some of the oldest and most established wineries. With a critical mass of more than 25 wineries to visit, there are five established wine trails in the area; Scenic Sip, Fab Five of Kelowna, Grapes & Grains Trail, Lakeshore Wine Route, and Westside Wine Trail. The iconic Mission Hill Family Estate sits on a hill overlooking Lake Okanagan and is a true destination winery. It offers some amazing culinary experiences tying in with the local farm-to-table culture and some signature events, including a fall epicurean dinner and a summer concert series.

TRAVEL NOTES CARIBBEAN CAMP, SEAT SENSE AND BRAZILIAN LUXURY

Kids camp
Cottage country, camping or the Caribbean? Sunwing has a new Summer Camps by the Sea program, which lets your kids attend summer camp in the Caribbean, Mexico or Central America with bargain packages for many of their resorts. Visit Sunwing.ca.

Cabin comfort
The new, design award-winning SANTO Seat from German firm SII could be coming soon to an aircraft near you. The Special Needs Accommodation for Toddlers & Oversized Passengers seat has a convertible design that suits a larger passenger or a parent and child, making better use of the space at the back of the plane.

Bucket List: Kenoa Resort
Touted as one of the 50 best hotels in the world, Brazil's first eco-chic resort, in the state of Alagoas, has 23 rooms of pure luxury. Enjoy fine dining and spa pampering, plus adventure experiences, such as an oyster-tasting canoe trip. Stay five nights and get the sixth night free. Visit KenoaResort.com. DOUG WALLACE

The Kenoa Resort in Brazil. CONTRIBUTED

Cocktail culture shakes up city

OTTAWA

Bartenders creating new combinations to sip, savour

Whether celebrating happy hour, going on a date or indulging in a liquid lunch, Ottawa's cocktail scene has plenty on tap.

Gone are the days when the drink with the most alcohol and sugar was the tipple of the week (we're looking at you, Long Island Iced Tea). Now cocktails are appreciated not only for their intoxicating abilities, but also for their flavour profiles.

"Bartenders everywhere have moved towards more traditional, organic cocktail making," said Emily Ienzi, owner of the farm-to-table gastropub Two Six Ate in Ottawa's Little Italy neighbourhood. "People are making their own bitters, infusing spirits, making syrups and cordials and using fresh, local ingredients."

With twists on traditional beverages and unique creations, Two Six Ate's list is expansive, and gives a nod to the surrounding Italian community with Campari, Aperol and Prosecco.

Emily Ienzi, left, owner, and Roopa Philar, manager, of Ottawa restaurant Two Six Ate, create cocktails. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Gin 'n Juice cocktail — gin, grapefruit juice, soda, house grapefruit bitters, peach bitters, lemon juice, allspice, maple syrup and, most notably, a splash of Cynar — had been invented to feature the herb-and-citrus Italian artichoke liqueur.

"I had wanted to (pair Cynar and grapefruit) for a long time," Ienzi said. "I've always thought those flavours could work well together if they were balanced the right way. I think the drink is fun and refreshing and a good example of the types of things we like to make."

Among all the factors that make a great cocktail, "balance" is one word common among bartenders and mixologists, even those new to the scene like Ace Mercado.

Opened in August, the restaurant prides specializes in tequila-based drinks. It's not all margaritas and tequila sunrises though. Ace is highly creative; any patron need only order the Aldasoro to see that.

A mix of tequila and liqueurs, the cocktail is a beautiful purple, but it doesn't stop there. For wow, Ace uses green Chartreuse that is lit and then cooled using liquid nitrogen.

"(We want to) leave each guest with a strikingly unique and memorable experience through each of our different cocktails," said Scott Porter, managing partner of Ace Mercado.

On Elgin Street, the Guest Room, on the top floor of Fresco Bistro, has a speakeasy vibe and is constantly mixing up something new and different.

The bar creates its own flavours of alcohol, from tulip and rosemary-infused gin to tobacco-infused tequila. Staffers make their own syrups, like salted caramel, vanilla and even Guinness. Many drinks are smoked.

The mixologists need a certain amount of swagger to serve the Rat Pack, a $40 cocktail featuring Jack Daniel's Frank Sinatra Select whiskey and buttered Johnnie Walker Black Label whisky.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IF YOU GO

Where to have a drink

- Two Six Ate is at 268 Preston St. and is open late. Closed on Tuesdays.
- Ace Mercado is at 121 Clarence St. in the ByWard Market.
- The Guest Room is on the second floor of Fresco Bistro at 354 Elgin St.

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Figo quits FIFA election race

SOCCER

Portugal legend delivers parting shot at Blatter after exit

Luis Figo has dropped out of the FIFA presidential race.
BEN STANSALL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Calling FIFA a dictatorship under Sepp Blatter, presidential candidate Luis Figo dropped out of the election race on Thursday.

The Portugal great, and former FIFA world player of the year, said in a statement sent to The Associated Press that he refuses to go along with an election process that is designed "for the delivery of absolute power to one man" — indicating Blatter, the current FIFA president.

Figo's announcement came hours after another candidate, Dutch soccer federation president Michael van Praag, also withdrew from the May 29 poll of 209 FIFA member federations.

That left only Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan in the race as the three UEFA-supported opponents to 17-year incumbent Blatter finally united in a joint strategy. Prince Ali joined Van Praag at a news conference in Amsterdam late Thursday to announce new promises in a campaign that has barely a week to attack a global bedrock of support for Blatter.

If elected, Ali would immediately expand the World Cup, starting with the 2018 tournament, to 36 teams which would create one extra place for each of Africa, Asia and the region covering North and Central America and the Caribbean (CONCACAF).

He would also upgrade playoff entries for South America and Oceania to become guaranteed qualifying slots.

Prince Ali also pledged to give $1 million per year to FIFA members, doubling what each got in a four-year commercial cycle tied to the 2014 World Cup. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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OMG: TWERKING, LOLZ ADDED TO SCRABBLE DICTIONARY

Twerking, hashtag and facetime are among 6,500 new entries in the Scrabble "Bible" that reflect the Internet age, but have left traditionalists squirming.

The number of new editions in Official Scrabble Words, released by British publishing house Collins, is double the amount added to the previous edition — boosted by slang, pop culture and the web.

"The Internet age has revolutionised the inclusion of slang in dictionaries and Collins' Official Scrabble Words is no exception," said Helen Newstead, head of language content at Collins.

"Now people use slang in social media posts, tweets, blogs, comments, text messages, you name it, so there's a host of evidence for informal varieties of English that simply didn't exist before."

The Collins dictionary, used by enthusiasts of the board game across the world, excluding North America, is updated every four to five years.

Some of the highest-scoring new words include quinzhee, an Inuit snow shelter, and the Yiddish term schvitz, to sweat.

Also included are onomatopoeic interjections, or words created from sounds such as augh, blech, eew and yeesh.

AFP

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Venus, planet of harmony, is under pressure today but that does not mean you will be too. You will be okay if you refuse to let problems of a domestic nature get you down.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Yes, you appear to have a very thick skin but the fact is you are as easily upset as anyone else and what someone says today may hurt you immensely. Don't take it seriously and try to forgive them.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Chances are you will splash out on something that catches your eye today, only to regret it over the weekend when you realize how much it has cost and how little you now have available for other activities. Return it and get a refund.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
If you throw yourself into a new project today there is every possibility you will be looking for a way to get out of it tomorrow, so think before you act. There are enough existing projects that need to be finished.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
The most important thing today and over the weekend is that you make sure that those you help are those who most deserve your help. It's a sad fact of life that some people are happy to live on others' efforts rather than their own.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You must not allow your personal feelings to interfere with what needs to be done on the work front today. Some things are business and some things are personal.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone in a position of authority may be annoying but you need to remember that they have more power than you. You will sometimes have to make it look as if you agree.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Although Venus is moving through one of the best areas of your chart you still need to be careful, especially when traveling and socializing. You may be confident that you can handle anything that comes your way but don't tempt fate.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you make a small change in one thing today the effects are likely to be much bigger than you expected, so act with care and, if in doubt, don't act at all. Nothing is so important that it has to be dealt with immediately.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If life seems too complicated of late it is most likely because you are making it too complicated. How do you make it simpler? Do less — a lot less. Cut back to essentials.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The planets indicate you could fall for someone today or over the weekend who, to say the least, is not really suitable. Have a fling if you must but don't expect the relationship to last.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be able to do a particular task better than just about anyone, but that does not mean you should do it. You have more than enough on the go as it is at the moment, so don't add to your load. Colleagues must share the burden.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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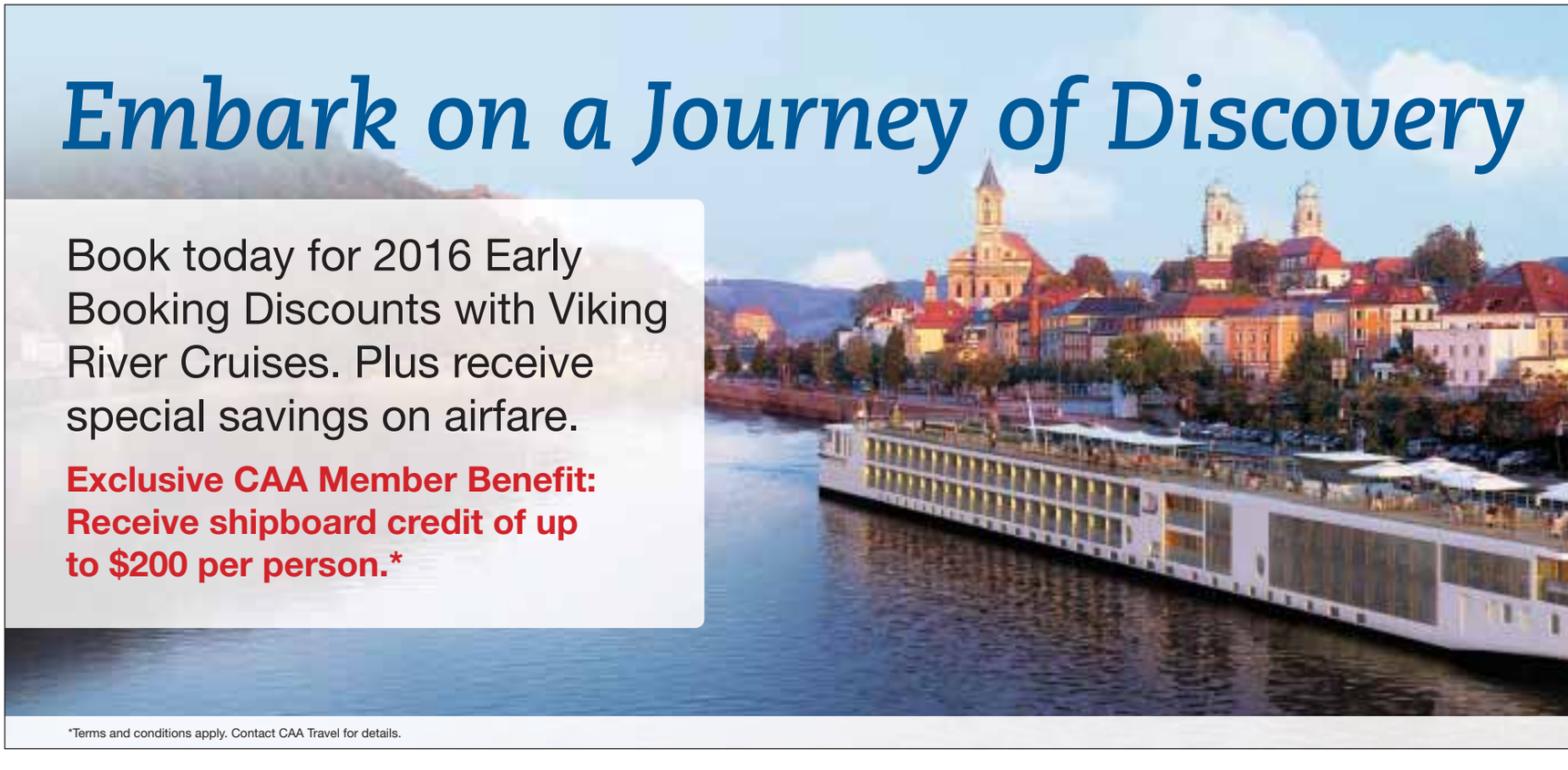
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RECIPE Endive Stuffed with Bok Choy, Carrots, Shrimp and Peanut Sauce

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 3 minutes

Ingredients
- 2 Tbsp peanut butter
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tsp soy sauce
- 2 tsp honey
- ½ tsp minced garlic
- ½ tsp minced ginger
- 3 Tbsp water
- 4 cup chopped baby bok choy
- ¾ cup grated carrot
- 4 oz baby cocktail shrimp
- 10 endive leaves
- ¼ cup chopped green onions

Directions

1. To make the sauce: In a small bowl mix peanut butter, lemon juice, soy sauce, honey, garlic, ginger and water until smooth.

2. In a large skillet sprayed with vegetable oil, add bok choy and stir fry for 3 minutes or just until soft. Add carrots, shrimp and half of the peanut sauce and cook for 1 minute until warm.

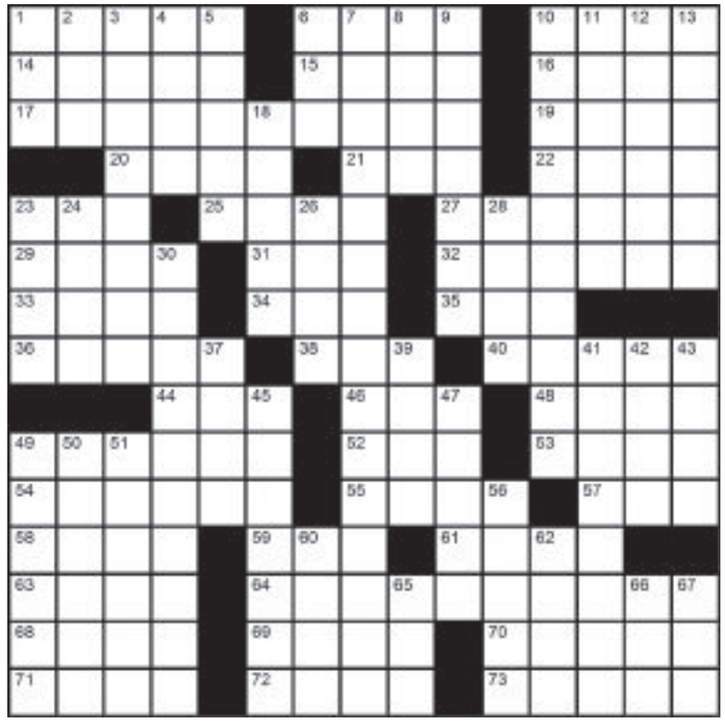
3. Spoon into endive leaves and drizzle with remaining sauce. Garnish with green onions.

Nutrition per serving (recipe serves 10)
- Calories 50
- Carbohydrates 5 g
- Fibre 1 g
- Protein 5 g
- Fat 1.5 g
- Sodium 190 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Ready to rock
6. Gladiator's 1700
10. Melancholy
14. __-eyed
15. Of an important time
16. -Dokey's pal
17. Canadian director, Denis __ (His film at #7-Down is a contender for #3-Down)
19. BC footballer
20. Slight
21. Belg. neighbour
22. 'I' and 'M' of IMO
23. Fizzle
25. Chg. card printout
27. Canadian actor Mr. Garber of #7-Down
29. Halts
31. Esthero's "__ _ in Need of a Musical Revolution"
32. From times-of-yore
33. Glaswegian
34. Schedule acronym
35. Un-high
36. Jeweller's meas.
38. Young newt
40. Sci-Fi flick extra
44. __ _ few rounds (Spar)
46. Swell/ducky
48. Pace
49. Missing
52. 'Favour' suffix
53. Kardashians momager
54. On the ball: 2 wds.
55. Capri pants, __-length
57. Founded [abbr.]
58. Epithet for Athena
59. Get permission
61. Norway's patron saint
63. "Freak on a Leash" nu metal band
64. Food trucks specializing in french fries: 2 wds.
68. Crossed out
69. Juliette's "The English Patient" (1996) role
70. Freshwater fish
71. Rivers: Spanish
72. Hen's hatchables
73. Watched: 2 wds.

DOWN
1. Rugged vehicle, commonly
2. Pai __, "Kill Bill: Vol. 2" (2004) character
3. Big prize at the Cannes Film Festival: 2 wds.
4. Writer, __ Stanley Gardner
5. Hair tint workers
6. Michie __, Canadian rapper
7. Starring Emily Blunt, what "Sicario" (2015) is about: 2 wds.
8. Bat's hangout
9. Quebec municipality northwest of Rouyn-Noranda near the Ontario border
10. Criminal investigation component: 2 wds.
11. Similar/related: 2 wds.
12. Canadian sculptor whose work is featured in Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park: 2 wds.
13. __ Skynyrd
18. Food packaging meas.: 2 wds.
23. Office table
24. Empire of yore
26. Olivia Newton-John's "Let __ __ There"
28. The Munsters' pet bat
30. Behind-the-scenes theatre people
37. Ms. Braxton
39. Brit's bye-bye
41. Neil Simon play, __ in the Park
42. Mr. Redding
43. Examination
45. Business tote, __ case
47. Under
49. More less asleep, say
50. Neil Simon play, __ Blues
51. "Connected" by __ MC's
56. Shoes to switch into after a night of partying
60. __ carpet
62. Taj Mahal's site
65. Not: French
66. Stubby pencil
67. Barn abode

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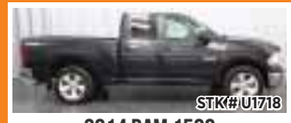

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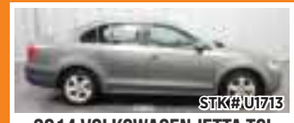

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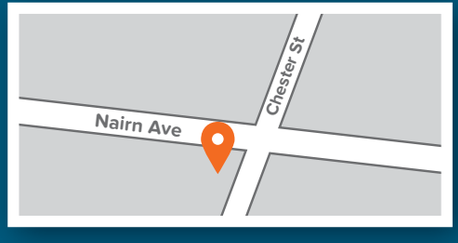
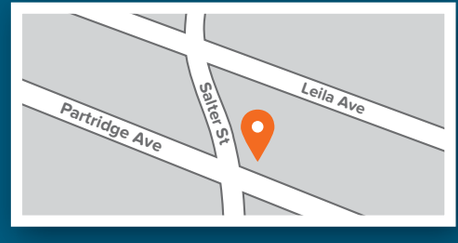
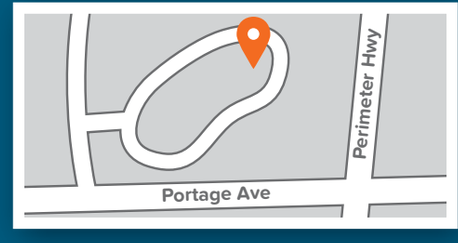


768 Nairn Avenue
Corner of Chester Street



1065 Salter Street
At Partridge Avenue



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